



## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION (PRM) IN KOSOVO**

### **General Background**

The U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Migration and Refugees (PRM) has primary responsibility for formulating U.S. policy on population, refugees, and migration, and for administering U.S. refugee assistance and admissions programs worldwide.

In Kosovo, PRM is working to find durable solutions for individuals displaced from Kosovo to Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. Through the provision of legal assistance, information dissemination, shelter repair, agricultural and other economic inputs at the destination, PRM seeks to help individuals make an informed decision about return or other options. To lay the groundwork for returns, the programs also support the most vulnerable ethnic minority populations within Kosovo and build tolerance between majority and minority community members.

### **2004 & 2005 Funding in Kosovo**

PRM funds the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the work of UNMIK's Housing and Property Directorate (HPD). The largest part of PRM's program is undertaken by NGO partners working to facilitate cross boundary and cross border individual return.

### **Assistance Provided by PRM Partners**

At the "Sending" side (Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia), NGOs assist IDPs with:

- Legal assistance
- Information about their houses, communities, and the current security climate in Kosovo in general and in their communities in particular
- Reestablishing contacts with their former neighbors
- Help in traveling to Kosovo to visit their houses and communities
- If not willing to return for certain reasons help them integrate in the communities they live now in Serbia and Montenegro.

At the "Receiving Side" (Kosovo), NGOs assist IDPs on a case-by-case basis with:

- Minor shelter repair
- Income generation assistance
- Legal assistance
- Community projects
- Dialogue facilitation with their neighbors
- Other humanitarian assistance

## **PRM Partner NGOs**

- **American Refugee Committee (ARC)**

With PRM funding, ARC is running the 2004-5 "Community Stabilization and Integration for Minorities and Returnees to Kosovo" program. This is a cross border/boundary program providing information and facilitating return for IDPs displaced in Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. The main program components

are a cross-border information campaign and assessment of potential returnees?

legal assistance, shelter repair, self-reliance assistance, dialogue facilitation, community development activities, social service integration and health education and income generation for returnees and their community.

ARC will promote the sustainability of program activities through close collaboration with PISG. In addition the creation of formal associations will be fostered to promote the implementation of community-based initiatives in return sites.

- **International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)**

Through the PRM funded "Individualized Minority Return Assistance" (IMRA)

program, ICMC will continue to work on the sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to their pre-war homes. Operating in Serbia, Montenegro,

Macedonia and Kosovo, this program uses an individualized casework methodology

in close coordination with other return organizations and includes cross boundary/border information dissemination and legal assistance, assisting returnees with basic needs and income generation activities, minor shelter repair, facilitating inter-ethnic cooperation and dialogue in the development of community projects.

- **Mercy Corps**

The PRM funded "Sustainable Multi-Ethnic Returns Support (SMRS) Program" implemented by Mercy Corps aims to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable returnees and communities through rural income generating activities. The program will support the establishment of new rural businesses, which generate employment and create inter-ethnic linkages. The SMRS program seeks to facilitate the development of good working and social relationships between business associates and neighbors to promote sustainable returnee reintegration. Complementary technical and business development training will be provided to maximize the use of resources.

- **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

UMCOR's "Integrated Cross-Boundary Minority Return" program is aimed at supporting minority communities inclusive of stabilization, tolerance building, information exchange, and facilitated return initiatives. UMCOR's program operates in Serbia and Kosovo and provides cross-boundary information, help for IDPs to reestablishing contact with their former community and direct assistance such as shelter repair, income generation and dialogue facilitation.

- **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)**

The DRC project follows an approach that views return as an integral part of the effort to find durable solutions for the IDPs. Firstly to facilitate them in a free and well-informed decision-making process and secondly to assist those who express a wish to return to Kosovo to do so. The project will focus on the regions and locations in Kosovo where return has been problematic but remains feasible particularly in western Kosovo. Ground preparation and intensive work with receiving community will be provided to enhance feasibility of return. Special focus will be put on Serb and Roma IDPs, including IDPs who are accommodated in collective centers and under-served IDPs in Montenegro with serious obstacles to return. Returnees will be supported with an integrated returns package consisting of humanitarian assistance, house repair and self-reliance project support.

## **FUNDING PROJECTS**

BPRM puts out a call for proposals once a year. The next call for proposals will be in January or February 2005. Before that, PRM will not be funding individual projects.

## PRM PARTNER NGO CONTACT DETAILS

### ARC - American Refugee Committee

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### DRC – Danish Refugee Council

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### Mercy Corps

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